National Office Bulletin

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
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INTRODUCTION

The National Office Bulletin makes its first appearance with this issue, as a result of recent conferences between the National President and the National Office staff.

Its purpose is two-fold:

1. It will combine into one publication many communications formerly issued in mimeographed form, thereby reducing the volume of material distributed and the number of mailings necessary.

2. It will make useful information about the National Congress more generally available to state and national leaders.

Comments concerning this publication will be welcomed, especially suggestions as to how it may be made of maximum value in promoting the work of the National Congress.

W. Elwood Baker
General Secretary

COME TO SEATTLE!

A practical convention is in store for delegates to the 37th National Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in Seattle, May 21 to 26, at the Olympic Hotel.

"Make the convention of practical help for every delegate" has been the watchword of those in charge of convention arrangements. Instead of a predominance of the usual formal convention addresses, most of the time will be devoted to conferences and discussion of the actual problems and needs of delegates interested in the organization and administration of local parent-teacher associations.

The convention theme, "The Child and His Community," was chosen with a view to its ultimate application to individual situations. At a time when citizens are deeply concerned over community provision for education, recreation, and other social advantages for children, this theme is of especial interest.

1933 MAY DAY AND SUMMER ROUND-UP

The observance of May Day-Child Health Day is of great interest to local parent-teacher groups because in connection with it will be launched the Ninth Annual Summer Round-Up of the Children, the major health project of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, a campaign to send to the entering grade of school a class of children as free as possible from remediable defects.

Starting to school is one of the most important events of a child's life.

The first asset needed to meet this new life successfully is physical fitness. Thousands of children have defective vision, defective hearing, and other defects which can be helped or checked by early treatment. The earlier in life that good habits may be formed and physical defects can be detected and treated, the better.

How many children in your community will be physically prepared for school?

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

You Ask

Why should we pay state and National dues when our local needs are so great?

We Answer

1. Wise Guidance — A Congress unit unites parents, teachers, and other citizens in each school community in the interest of children. Parent-teacher associations guided by Congress principles avoid many pit-falls in developing home and school cooperation. Guiding principles are found in the National Congress Handbook.

2. Influence — Nearly one and a half million members carry weight in state and national action and with national legislators. Local needs are closely related to state and national legislation. Parents and teachers work together not alone for local but for state and national protection of children. The annual record of the activities of the National Congress is found in the Proceedings.

3. A Wider Vision — Each individual member has an opportunity to have his share in a nationwide movement. Congress units develop wider vision through contacts with other locals at council meetings, through district and state meetings, and through parent-teacher radio broadcasts. Participation in the National Organization through the National Convention and through the Congress publications, cannot fail to bring to each member a realization of the far-reaching influence on the parent-teacher movement, in which he has a part.

4. Material Benefits — Each Congress unit receives free the Congress working tools, Handbook, Activities, Projects, and Program Making; leaflets necessary for carrying on the year's program; and a symbol of each individual member's part in the movement, the Allinclusive Membership card. Congress units also have the privilege of purchasing additional material at reduced prices through special offers and quantity prices. (See list of Congress Publications).

LOCAL & COUNCIL PROGRAMS NEEDED

Copies of annual programs of local P.T.A's and councils are needed at the National Office for exhibits and other purposes. In addition, information about outstanding activities will be welcomed. A note might be carried in the state bulletin asking local units to send programs direct to the National Office or some state officer might be designated to select especially good programs for this purpose.

THE RADIO AND CHILDREN

Objectionable radio programs for children sponsored by commercial concerns, are being protested by parents everywhere. Resolutions have been adopted in several states and definite steps are being taken to have the blood and thunder, fear-creating, type of program taken off the air. Please send us as full information as possible about any P.T.A. activities in this field which have come to your attention. This information will be compiled and made available to P.T.A. members.

P.T.A. HELPS EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Vermont is working with the Vermont Women's Joint Legislative Committee to keep up educational standards. Local P.T.A. members have interviewed town managers; the state president and legislative chairmen have conducted a direct legislative campaign; literature has been sent to members of the legislature. To date, two bills detrimental to education have been defeated and one amended to make it less drastic.

South Carolina reports letters sent to all state board members and local P.T.A. presidents when detrimental legislation was proposed. A letter was also sent to members of the legislature. Copies of the state Congress resolution urging protection of the public school system were sent to members of the Legislature's Committee on Legislation. The state president has spoken at meetings; local associations and councils have held meetings to discuss public school needs; prominent educators have been invited to address local and council meetings to explain the school needs to the school patrons.

NOTE: These two reports should be filed with those of the 12 states previously published in the State Presidents' Information Exchange.

"Support of Education in the Present Crisis by Parent-Teacher Associations" is the title of a mimeographed statement which was prepared in the National Office as a summary of information sent in by state presidents or found in state bulletins. This publication was distributed at the Department of Superintendence meeting at Minneapolis in February. Copies are being sent to all state presidents.

June 27- July 1 Association for Childhood Education, annual convention in Denver, Colorado.

July 1-7 National Education Association, annual convention in Chicago.

FOR STAY-AT-HOMES

For many reasons, not everybody who desires it will be able to attend the National Convention this year. Many interested workers will be forced to be "arm-chair" or "stay-at-home"delegates. For Congress members unable to attend the convention in person, arrangements have been made whereby they may secure the convention delegates notebook. The official program, issues of the daily Convention News, and other material will be included. Orders for the notebook, accompanied by the registration fee of $1, must reach the National Office not later than May 10. Only a limited number are available. Other sources of information concerning the convention will be the June-July issue of Child Welfare magazine, and the Seattle daily newspapers during the convention week.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

More people are studying National Congress correspondence courses in parent-teacher work this year than at any time since their introduction. This situation is rather surprising at a time when retrenchment has been necessary in many lines of endeavor. But there is a reason for this increase; many study groups are using the correspondence course as a basis for their study, according to registration records. The groups vary in size from 5 to 50 members.

Information concerning National Congress correspondence courses may be secured from the National Office or from the state president or chairman of courses of each state branch.

AMONG THE MAGAZINES

Articles of interest to P-T workers:

Physical Education Magazine, March, 1933.
Health projects of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers are described in an article by W. Elwood Baker, General Secretary.

Journal of the National Education Association, March, 1933.
"The Faculty and the Parent-Teacher Movement" urges closer cooperation of parents and teachers

Journal of Home Economics, March, 1933.
"Teaching Family Relations," by Newell W. Edson, National Congress Chairman of Social Hygiene, makes a plea in behalf of youth for the teaching of family relationship.

NATIONAL CHAIRMEN OFFER NEW MATERIAL

Outlines on nutrition and parent education, two subjects of vital interest to parent-teacher associations, have just been issued by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers:

"Parent Education Courses and Outlines" based on Parent Education, Third Yearbook, edited by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, will provide guidance for systematic study of the yearbook. Many study groups and individuals have found the Parent Education Yearbook a helpful source of information on parent problems.

"Timely Suggestions on Nutrition for Members of Parent-Teacher Associations," by Dr. Adelaide Baylor, Congress Chairman of Homemaking, gives simple usable hints on emergency nutrition.

Both these outlines are available from the National Office either in proof-sheet form, (100 copies, $1; 1000 copies, $6) or in plate service for reproduction by states, districts, and councils.

IN CHILD WELFARE MAGAZINE

The Parent-Teacher program on "The Exceptional Child" in the April issue of the Child Welfare magazine, offers the basis for discussion which may lead to understanding effort to provide a sound education for these long misunderstood children. An article by Mrs. Marion L. Faegre, of the University of Minnesota, in the same issue offers valuable material for use with this program. Mrs. Faegre is Chairman of the Congress Committee on the Exceptional Child.

Other articles of interest in the April issue of Child Welfare include the following:

Adequate Diets at Low Cost,
by Hazel K. Stiebeling, Senior Food Economist, U.S. Bureau of Home Economics.

The Safe School,
by Kate Kelley, director of elementary instruction of the Des Moines schools, and Marian Telford, Field Secretary of the National Safety Council.

Self Expression and Growth,
by Harold M. Williams, Assistant Professor at the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station.

The stage is set for the most practical P.T.A. display ever planned for a National Congress Convention. With the cooperation of state branches, the exhibit this year can be outstanding. It is a challenge to visualize the answer to the question, "Why Belong To The State and National?"

National Congress services to Congress P.T.A's will be featured. The results of these services are most important. Visualization of these results will depend largely on the state branches. What will your state contribute to the following sections of the exhibit?

1. Procedure Books - ten from each state including the state book and others from locals, councils, and districts.

2. Publicity Recordbooks - Eight from each state, under supervision of state publicity chairman.

3. One Outstanding Feature of Your State Convention Exhibit - whether it be a display of programs, a state chairman's presentation of committee work, statewide activity, or a local P.T.A. poster.

4. Methods of Announcing and Using Congress Publications - at local meetings, fairs, conferences, and conventions. How are individual members in your state kept informed of the material prepared for Congress P.T.A's? Assemble information about methods used throughout your state. Visualize these methods. Help another state answer the question, "What do we get for our money?"

PLEASE LET US KNOW how your state will cooperate. Send the following information to the Research and Information Division, National Office by April 30; the type of exhibit material your state will send; the probable space required for showing; and the name of the worker who will be responsible for the return of the material at the close of the convention. These registrations for exhibit space will be numbered in the order received and definite instructions will be sent with the acknowledgement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 17-22 - Be Kind to Animals Week, program suggestions available from American Humane Education Society, 180 Longwood Avenue, Boston, Mass.

May 1 - National Child Health Day, program suggestions available from American Child Health Association, 450-7th Avenue, New York City.

May 15 - Summer Round-Up of the Children, officially opens. Promoted by local units of the state and National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

May 21-26 - National Congress of Parents and Teachers, annual convention in Seattle, Washington.

STATE NOTES

Use of school buildings as recreational centers for the unemployed, after school hours and in the evening, is being promoted by the Louisiana Congress. P.T.A's are furnishing volunteer leadership for programs of music, games, handicraft, reading, etc. Are other states promoting similar projects?

The New Mexico Parent-Teacher Bulletin is published by the University of New Mexico.

The A. and M. College Mothers Club of Bell County, Texas, maintains a student loan fund. Two boys were kept in college last year through this fund.

The Bougainvillea School of Dade County, Florida, in connection with a county home for dependent and delinquent children, has a unique "parent-teacher" organization. As the children in the school have only such foster parents as the county provides, the superintendent, matrons, and teachers have organized a Congress unit. The Dade County Council was requested to assist in organizing the unit.

A study of unemployment evils affecting children and young people, and the best action to take to minimize the ill effects, is a new project recently undertaken by the New Jersey Congress. Community responsibilities and preventive and protective measures for the transient boy are being worked out.